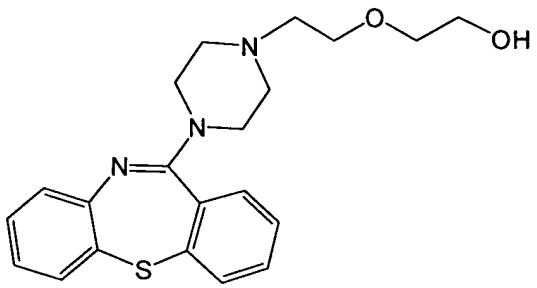
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

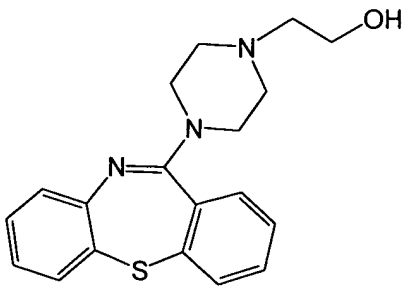
1. (Currently Amended) Procedure for obtaining 11-(4-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethyl]-1-piperazinyl)-dibenzo[b,f][1,4]thiazepine, of formula (I)



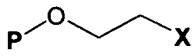
(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein it comprises reaction between a compound of formula (II) and a compound of formula (III):

(II)



(III)



in which X means a leaving group and P a protective group of alcohols resistant to alkaline conditions, in the presence of a base, followed by a step of deprotection and, eventually, obtaining a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) Procedure according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said reaction between said compound of formula (II) and said compound of formula (III) is carried out by phase transfer in the presence of a phase-transfer catalyst.

3. (Currently Amended) Procedure according to Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said phase-tranfer catalyst is selected from among tetrabutyl ammonium bisulphate, Aliquat 336, tetrabutyl ammonium iodide, 18-corona-6 ether.

4. (Currently Amended) Procedure according to Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said phase-transfer reaction is carried out in the absence of organic solvent.

5. (Currently Amended) Procedure according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said base is an alkaline or alkaline-earth organic or inorganic base.

6. (Currently Amended) Procedure according to Claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said base is an alkaline or alkaline-earth hydroxide or carbonate.

7. (Currently Amended) Procedure according to Claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said base is an alkaline hydroxide in solid form or in aqueous solution.

8. (Currently Amended) Procedure according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein X is halogen or an alkylsulphonyloxy or arylsulphonyloxy group.

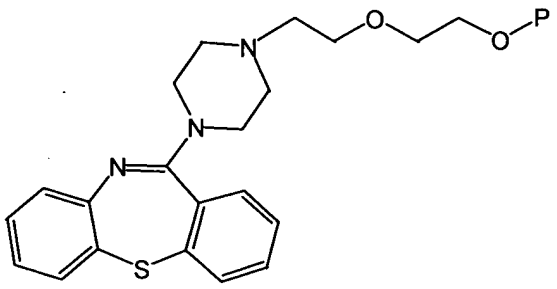
9. (Currently Amended) Procedure according to Claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein X is a mesylate, triflate, nonaflate, tresylate, tosylate, brosylate or nosylate.

10. (Currently Amended) Procedure according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said protective group of alcohols P is of ether type.

11. (Currently Amended) Procedure according to Claim 10, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said protective group of alcohols P of ether type is selected from tetrahydropyranyl, benzyl and trithyl (triphenylmethylo).

12. (Currently Amended) Procedure according to Claim 11, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said protective group of alcohols P of ether type is trithyl.

13. (Currently Amended) Procedure according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said step of deprotection includes hydrolysis in acid medium of an intermediate of formula (IV):



(IV)

in which P has the meaning defined in Claim 1.